



CHARLES COUNTY 2001 AGRICULTURAL PROFILE

Charles county is located on the Southern Maryland peninsula between the Patuxent and Potomac Rivers in the Atlantic coastal Plain. Most of the land area is drained by tributaries of the Potomac River and elevations range from a few feet to more than 200 above sea level. In 2001 the population was 120,546.

Agricultural lands in Charles County occupy approximately 19 percent of the county's total land area of 295,095 acres. Of the land in farms, 30 percent of it is woodland.

Tobacco is, and has been for over 300 years, the major cash crop. It is produced on 28 percent of the farms, and annual production is about 1.3 million pounds. The market value of tobacco was \$3.7 million for the 1997 crop.

Other field crops include corn, soybeans, and small grain. These crops are sold primarily as cash grains, but also support animal enterprises. Swine is the most important livestock enterprise.

CHARLES COUNTY AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Crop	Year	Unit	Acreage Harvested	Average Yield	Total Production
Corn for Grain	1999	Bu.	6,700	58.7	393,300
	2000		6,300	157.9	995,000
	2001		6,700	135.7	909,000
Corn for Silage	1999	Tons.	*	*	*
	2000		*	*	*
	2001		*	*	*
Soybeans	1999	Bu.	7,900	23.1	182,500
	2000		9,200	42.3	389,000
	2001		11,900	37.5	446,000
Wheat	1999	Bu.	3,000	48.0	144,000
	2000		3,100	54.1	167,800
	2001		3,000	56.3	169,000
Hay	1999	Tons.	3,100	2.5	7,600
	2000		4,000	2.5	10,000
	2001				
Barley	1999	Bu.	*	*	*
	2000		*	*	*
	2001		*	*	*
Tobacco	1999	Bu.	1,000	1,315	1,315,600
	2000		1,000	1,575	1,574,600
	2001		300	1,500	450,000

Crop Production Rank among MD. Counties, 2001				Livestock Inventories Rank among MD. Counties, 1997 ¹	
Corn	17	Oats	³	Cattle	14
Wheat	17	Barley	³	Hogs	13
Hay	13	Soybeans	16	Sheep	14
Tobacco	2			Milk Cows	15

CHARLES COUNTY AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

<i>Farm Numbers & Size</i> ¹	1987	1992	1997
Number of Farms	601	496	410
Average Size (acres)	113	120	136
Land in Farms (acres)	67,655	59,389	55,928

<i>Livestock (Number on Farms)</i> ¹	1987	1992	1997
Cattle Inventory Jan. 1	3,095	3,064	3,174
Milk Cows	173	88	108
Hog Inventory Dec. 1	7,855	4,407	1,553
Sheep Inventory Jan. 1	813	389	391

<i>Value of Sales</i> ¹	1987	1992	1997
<i>----- Thousand Dollars -----</i>			
All Products	8,278	9,939	10,816
Crops	5,985	7,996	9,364
Livestock, Poultry and Poultry Products	2,263	1,943	1,452

¹ Source: Census of Agriculture, NASS.

² Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

³ Unranked - Data not published.

⁴ Revised.

* Acreage too small to publish .

MONTHLY WEATHER DATA - 2001

MONTH	AVERAGE TEMP. (F)	NORMAL 1961-1990	TOTAL RAINFALL (INCHES)	NORMAL 1961-1990
January	42.8	33.3	2.86	3.46
February	49.5	36.3	2.30	3.38
March	52.5	45.7	5.00	3.97
April	68.9	54.4	1.61	3.41
May	73.7	63.9	6.73	4.12
June	81.9	71.9	5.27	4.06
July	72.3	76.2	9.44	4.22
August	73.0	74.6	5.35	4.06
September	66.3	67.9	5.32	3.75
October	57.3	56.8	.03	3.43
November	44.8	47.6	2.62	3.51
December	30.9	38.3	4.58	3.28
Annual	55.5	55.6	48.75	44.65

Number frost free days for 2001 211

Normal frost free days 1951-1980 180 *(1961-1990 Not available)*

Highest temperature 06-11-01 92

Lowest temperature 01-29-01 6

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*Compiled by the Maryland Cooperative Extension Service
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